



COURT NEWS



Chief Judge Barry Russell

2005

Jon D. Ceretto, Executive Officer/Clerk

THE HONORABLE ARTHUR M. GREENWALD RETIRES AFTER SERVING 17 YEARS ON BENCH

On May 31, 2005, Judge Arthur M. Greenwald retired after 17 years on the bankruptcy bench, with 47 years of government service. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals first appointed Judge Greenwald to a 14-year term in 1988, and then reappointed him in 2002. Judge Greenwald presided over several high profile cases during his career on the bench, including Easyriders Inc., Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, International Society for Krishna Consciousness of California, Inc., and Sizzler Restaurants International. Judge Greenwald also sat on several of the Court's committees including the Education, Chapter 13, U.S. Trustee Liaison, Case Management, and the Space and Security Committees. In addition, he served as chair of the Pro Se (Pro Bono) Committee for a period of time. Before joining the bench, Judge Greenwald served in the U.S. Army from 1953-1955, the IRS from 1960-1964, and was a U.S. Attorney from 1964 to 1988. Judge Greenwald has expressed that he plans to spend much of his retirement traveling to places such as Israel, Africa, Australia, and India. Congratulations, Judge Greenwald!



On June 6, 2005, the Los Angeles Bankruptcy Forum honored Judge Greenwald for his many years of government service by hosting a tribute dinner for him at the Park Hyatt in Century City. Speakers at this event included: Circuit Judge Harry Pregerson; Chief Bankruptcy Judge Barry Russell; Judge John Ryan, who also served as the event's master of ceremonies; and Bankruptcy Judge Sheri Bluebond.

FORMAL INVESTITURE HELD FOR JUDGE THEODOR ALBERT



On June 1, 2005, the first day of Judge Theodore Albert's 14-year appointment as Bankruptcy Judge, the formal investiture for Judge Albert was held in courtroom 1675 in

the Edward R. Roybal Federal Building and Courthouse in Los Angeles. Aldean Lee, Assistant Chief Deputy, United States Marshal, opened the court; the calendar was called to order by Sherri R. Carter, District Court Executive/Clerk of Court; and Chief District Judge Consuelo B. Marshall and Chief Bankruptcy Judge Barry Russell welcomed the guests. Circuit Judge Richard A. Paez extended greetings on behalf of the Ninth Circuit and administered the Oath of Office to Judge Albert. Deborah Gaskell Albert, Judge Albert's wife, then enrobed Judge Albert.

Judge John E. Ryan commented on Judge Albert's 'fine' qualities such as intelligence, integrity, and flexibility, and stated that Judge Albert is a "collegial addition to the Court." Judge Albert's former law firm partners, Michael Weiland and Jeffrey Golden remarked on Judge Albert's personal and career achievements and thanked him for being a mentor. Judge Albert thanked all of the guests for attending the ceremony. The calendar was then called completed and the ceremony adjourned by Executive Officer/Clerk of Court, Jon D. Ceretto. Judge Albert's family, friends, new colleagues, and Clerk's Office staff then joined him in a reception held in the Edward R. Roybal Federal Building and Courthouse lobby.

COURT CLOSURES

Day/Date

Holiday

Monday, July 4, 2005

Independence Day

JUDGE KATHLEEN T. LAX CHANGES NAME TO KATHLEEN THOMPSON

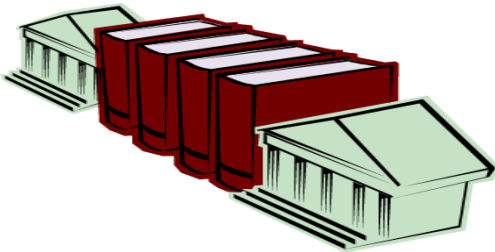
Effective July 1, 2005, the initials following all pending bankruptcy case and adversary proceeding numbers assigned to Judge Kathleen Thompson have been changed from "KL" to "KT." All pleadings filed in a bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding assigned to Judge Thompson must reflect the new "KT" initials (see **Public Notice 05-006**).

TRANSFER/REASSIGNMENT OF CENTRAL DISTRICT CASES

As a result of the retirement of Judge Arthur M. Greenwald, the transfer of Judge Maureen A. Tighe to the San Fernando Valley division, and the appointment of Theodor Albert as Bankruptcy Judge, a large number of cases have recently been reassigned.

REVISIONS TO LOCAL BANKRUPTCY RULES AND FORMS

Several revisions to the Local Bankruptcy Rules and Forms for the Central District of California Bankruptcy Court have been approved and become effective August 1, 2005 (see **Public Notice 05-005**). The revised Rules and forms can be downloaded from the Court's web site, <www.cacb.uscourts.gov>, by selecting Procedures/Rules/Forms, then Local Bankruptcy Rules and Forms. Printed copies of the Rules and forms will be available for purchase from the copy services at the Los Angeles, Riverside, Santa Ana, and San Fernando Valley divisions, and from the Clerk's Office in the Northern Division.



Effective June 1, 2005, Judge Tighe's Los Angeles Division caseload was either transferred to the San Fernando Valley Division or reassigned to Judge Albert at the Los Angeles Division; and Judge Greenwald's cases were reassigned to other San Fernando Valley Division judges. **Public Notices 05-003** and **05-004** outline the parameters for the transfer and reassignment of these bankruptcy cases and adversary proceedings.

You may view these public notices on the Court's web site at <www.cacb.uscourts.gov>, at Notices & Orders->PublicNotices->Transfer/Reassignment of Judge Tighe Cases, and Reassignment of Judge Greenwald Cases.



COURT ESTABLISHES NEW LEGISLATION TASK FORCE

The Court has established a New Legislation Task Force to review the Court's rules, forms and procedures in light of "The Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005," enacted on April 20, 2005. The task force is interested in any ideas or proposals you may have concerning changes needed in any of the Court's rules, forms, or procedures in light of the new law. If you are interested in submitting any suggestions to the task force relative to implementing the legislation, please email them to comments@cacb.uscourts.gov, a special mailbox setup for this purpose.

The task force may also be setting up meetings and possibly subcommittees in the future to discuss specific proposed changes in court procedures or rules. If you would like to be invited to take part in this process in the future or you would like to serve on a subcommittee, please email your contact information to comments@cacb.uscourts.gov. Please state what type of involvement in bankruptcy cases you have, what types of parties you usually represent and the areas of the district where you work. Please include the email address where you may be contacted.

***e*FILE IS NOW MANDATORY**

Usage of *eFile*, the Court's electronic filing system, is now mandatory as of June 1, 2005. This is specified in paragraph 19 of **Second Amended General Order 02-01**, which can be viewed on the Court's web site, <www.cacb.uscourts.gov>, under the *Notices & General Order* section. The Court is monitoring for compliance with the General Order. To register to use *eFile*, you may visit the Court's web site and select the *Electronic Services* section.

IT'S ALMOST TEE TIME ONCE AGAIN



On September 30, 2005, the Debtor's Assistance Project will host its 3rd Annual Charity Golf Tournament to benefit Public Counsel on the Eisenhower Course at Pacific Palms Conference Resort (f.k.a. Industry Hills Golf Course) in the City of Industry. The entry fee is \$125 per person. Registration includes green fees, cart, live auction with prizes, raffle, custom awards for individual and team play, a complementary gift bag with golf goodies, and dinner. For more information about the tournament, go to <www.charitygolfonline.com>, click on **Tournament Search**, and then the tournament date.

For information regarding tee sponsorships or contributions of items for silent auction, please contact Timothy Yoo at tyoo@rdwlawcorp.com.

Court Statistics January - April 2005

	2005 ANNUAL ESTIMATE	2004 TOTAL	% CHANGE 05 vs 04
Case Commencement:			
Chp. 7	56,986	54,892	4%
Chp. 11	340	302	13%
Chp. 13	<u>3,265</u>	<u>5,445</u>	-40%
*TOTAL	60,591	60,639	0%
Complaints:			
Dischargeability	1,272	1,693	-25%
Recover Money/Property	1,344	2,629	-49%
All Other	<u>252</u>	<u>419</u>	-40%
TOTAL	2,868	4,741	-40%
Motions:			
Personal Property	2,841	4,172	-32%
Real Property	1,466	3,655	-60%
Unlawful Detainer	540	673	-20%
Other RFS	319	448	-29%
Dismiss	4,252	7,992	-47%
Dismiss/Convert	105	217	-51%
Fees, Employment, Expenses	<u>7,592</u>	<u>9,400</u>	-19%
TOTAL	17,115	26,557	-36%

National Filing Trends	12-Month period ending 3/2005	12-Month period ending 3/2004	% Change 04 vs 03
Chapter 7	1,141,715	1,176,654	-3.0%
Chapter 11	7,115	11,649	-38.9%
Chapter 13	<u>441,838</u>	<u>465,878</u>	-5.2%
*TOTAL	1,590,668	1,654,181	-3.8%

*Excludes Chapter 9, Chapter 12, and Section 304 filings

20 Largest and Other Cases of Interest Filed in the Last 24 Months

	Debtor Name	Case Number	Date Filed	Chapter	Asset Level in Millions	Liability Level in Millions	Last Milestone
High Profile Cases*	Imperial Credit Industries, Inc.	LA-03-28969-ES	07/17/03	11	\$169	\$291	Order approving application for fees, expenses, or compensation on 6/28/05
	Vista Hospital Systems, Inc.	RS-03-18901-DN	06/10/03	11	\$142	\$132	Multiple orders allowing or disallowing claims
	Brett Livingston Strong	SV-05-10137-KL	01/11/05	11	\$184	\$21	ORDER granting/approving motion to sell real property on 6/2/05.
	Burstein Technologies	LA-05-23985-EC	06/16/05	11	Over \$100	\$10-50	New Case
	Trigem America Corp.	SA-05-13972-RA	06/03/05	11	Over \$100	Over \$100	New Case
	GSM Wireless	SA-05-13514-JR	05/19/05	11	\$10-50	\$10-50	Multiple orders granted in June 2005.
	Illuminations.com, Inc.	LA-04-10427-SB	01/12/04	11	\$52	\$55	341(a) Meeting concluded on 5/31/05. Case is an asset case.
	Spectrum Restaurant Group, Inc.	SA-03-15911-RA	08/06/03	11	\$39	\$107	Multiple orders allowing or disallowing claims
	Clothestime Stores, Inc.	SA-03-14555-RA	06/13/03	7	\$15	\$49	On 6/7/05, an ORDER on motion for approval of cash disbursements by the Trustee was granted.
	Tri-City Mental Health Center	LA-04-13167-BR	02/13/04	9	\$1-10	\$10-50	Status Report filed 4/26/05.
	Aaron Tonken	LA-04-12883-EC	02/10/04	7	\$1-10	\$10-50	Judgment affirmed on appeal.
	Queen's Seaport Development	LA-05-15175-VZ	03/16/05	11	\$47.0	\$29.0	ORDER approving employment of professional of Weissmann Wolff Bergman Coleman Grodin & Evall LLP on 6/13/05
	American Restaurant Group, Inc. dba Stuart Anderson's Restaurants	LA-04-30732-TD	09/28/04	11	\$33	\$223	ORDER confirming chapter 11 plan on 6/23/05.
	Checkmate Staffing, Inc.	SA-03-19318-JR	12/29/03	11	\$22	\$31	Order entered 4/7/05 re: Disclosure Statement and Plan to be filed by 7/8/05.
	Santa Paula Memorial Hospital	ND-03-13454-RR	12/22/03	11	\$18	\$6	Multiple hearings held in June 2005 on fee applications.
	Sega Gameworks LLC	LA-04-15404-BB	03/09/04	11	\$26	\$36	On 5/9/05, ordered that the Debtor shall file its plan of reorganization and disclosure statement on or before AUGUST 1, 2005.
	Jeffrey and Nan Bennett	RS-03-26484-MG	11/14/03	11	\$21	\$27	Status Report filed 6/27/05.
	Rancho Las Flores Development	RS-05-12224-MG	03/11/05	11	\$11	\$8	On 6/28/05 an order to continue/reschedule hearing was granted for appointment of a chapter 11 trustee. It is continued to 08/30/05.
	Fujita Corporation USA	LA-04-27072-ES	08/05/04	11	\$5	\$111	Case was closed (confirmed) on 4/14/05.
	Franchise Pictures, LLC	LA-04-27996-MT	08/18/04	11	\$0-50	Over \$100	Case transferred to SV office. New case SV05-13855MT. Order allowing administrative claims, professional fees and expenses on 6/15/05.

*based on a combination of Asset and Liability Levels, Number of creditors, high activity, and/or name recognition

Court News

is published by the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California as an informational service for the practitioners and public of our Court.

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Suggestions and comments are always welcome.
Please call (951) 774-1066 or e-mail us at <Oscar_Sosa@cacb.uscourts.gov>.